



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
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MAURA HEALEY
ATTORNEY GENERAL

(617) 727-2200
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July 2, 2019

VIA E-MAIL ONLY

Anonymous
72546-59889515@requests.muckrock.com

Re: Your Public Records Request

Dear Requestor:

I write in response to your public records request made pursuant to the Massachusetts public records law, M.G.L. c. 66, § 10, and received on June 20, 2019.¹ In a June 19 e-mail to the Records Access Officer mailbox, you requested copies of records from the Office of the Attorney General (AGO), specifically:

Electronic copies, via email, of all email sent or received between January 1, 2017 and the date of receipt of this request (inclusive), between (using to/from/cc/bcc) (1) any agency employee or officer and (2) any of the following: any email address ending in whitehouse.gov, eop.gov, trump.com, donaldjtrump.com, obama.org, barackobama.com, justice.gov, usdoj.gov, or any of their subdomains.

The public records law requires that a request reasonably describes the public records being sought. See M.G.L. c. 66 § 10(a)(i). In its current form, your request does not reasonably describe the records that you seek. You ask our Office to search for e-mails sent to or from a list of eight (8) domain names. While you have provided specific domain names, your request would still require us to conduct a complete search of all e-mails sent to or from current and former employees of this Office for over two years without any other parameters. You still do not provide a list of specific employees within the AGO to search for responsive records. An adequate search for your records would retrieve e-mails involving different divisions and dissimilar matters because you have not delineated any specific employees or divisions for our Office to search. Thus, any responsive e-mails would require extensive review for a wide variety of applicable exemptions and may require substantial redaction. Consequently, your

¹ See Supervisor of Records Regulations at 950 CMR 32.03(3). See also 950 CMR 32.02 and 950 CMR 32.06(2)(e).



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request does not provide enough focused information upon which to conduct a reasonable search for records that are responsive.

As you may know, the public records law permits a custodian of public records to charge requesters for certain costs associated with responding to public records requests, including fees to search for the requested records. *See M.G.L. c. 66 § 10(d); and 950 CMR 32.07.* Because of the breadth of your request as explained above, the time to search AGO records is incalculable and, as a result, a good faith cost estimate cannot be assessed at this time. However, an appropriate cost estimate can be determined if you provide our Office with additional parameters and guidance concerning your request.

We note that this is your second attempt to submit a viable request. In the usual course of business, we would attempt to contact you via telephone to discuss your request and determine a modification that is reasonable for both you and the AGO. However, as you have submitted your request anonymously via e-mail, we are unable to communicate with you outside of a formal response letter. Without such interaction, therefore, we cannot further process this request as well.

Should you decide to again modify or resubmit your request, we ask that you please do so in a way that provides us with as much information as possible concerning the records you seek, and includes additional and/or narrowed search parameters, such as any AGO staff/areas of the Office that might be the custodians of such records.

As a helpful resource, the AGO website offers general guidance on how to submit a request and a listing of the categories of records that may be in our custody.² You may also contact the Records Access Officer by phone at (617) 963-2900 with additional questions.

You have the right to appeal this response to the Supervisor of Records pursuant to M.G.L. c. 66, § 10A(a), and to seek judicial review of an unfavorable decision by commencing a civil action in the superior court under M.G.L. c. 66, § 10A(c).

Very truly yours,



Lorraine A.G. Tarrow
Assistant Attorney General & Records Access Officer
General Counsel's Office

² <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/guidance-for-making-a-public-records-request>